

Application No.: 10/037,782
Amendment dated: December 16, 2004
Reply to Office Action of: June 22, 2004

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated. A complete set of the claims is included below, reflecting added subject matter (*underlining*) and deleted subject matter (*strikethrough*), as well as the current status of each claim. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling voice-data communications for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for individual callers, wherein the remote terminals comprise a telephonic capability including a voice communication structure for providing audio response signals and a digital input structure for providing digital response signals, said method comprising the steps of:

cuing select ones of said remote terminals in accordance with a select format to prompt selective actuation by callers of said voice communication means and said digital input means to provide responsive signals;

selectively receiving said responsive signals from said select ones of said remote terminals as: digital data signals indicative of caller data, digital control signals to control access to certain operations, or audio signals;

testing at least certain of the digital data signals to determine approval based on whether callers have exceeded a limit on use;

transferring approved calls to at least one live operator station where at least certain digital data signals indicative of caller data entered by a caller are displayed at the live operator station including at least a part of caller data entered by the callers and a part of caller data stored for the callers and where a live operator enters data for callers and completes calls; and

confirming via a voice generator at least a part of the caller data stored for the callers with the callers.

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27. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

receiving calling number identification data signals automatically provided by said communication facility.

28. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 27, wherein said calling number identification data signals control certain processing operations.

29. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

recording said audio signals and reproducing recorded audio signals as caller voice data at a remote terminal.

30. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 26, further comprising the step of:

providing said audio signals recorded in a digital format to a terminal via a coupling means.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling voice-data communications for use with a communication facility including remote terminals for individual callers, wherein said remote terminals comprise a telephonic capability including a voice communication structure for providing audio response signals and a digital input structure for providing digital response signals, said method comprising the steps of:

cuing select ones of said remote terminals to prompt selective actuation by callers of said voice communication structure and said digital input structure to provide responsive signals;

selectively identifying said responsive signals from said select ones of said remote terminals as: digital data signals, digital control signals, or audio signals;

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forwarding calls to a specific format based on said digital control signals;
testing at least certain of said digital data signals to determine approval based on whether callers have exceeded a limit on use;
transferring approved calls to a live operator under a condition where at least certain digital data signals entered by the caller are displayed to a live operator who can complete the call; and
confirming via a voice generator with the callers at least certain data stored for the callers.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the steps of:

receiving calling number identification data signals automatically provided by the communication facility.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein at least certain of calling number identification data automatically provided by said communication facility is also displayed to said live operator.

34. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of:

utilizing at least certain of said calling number identification data to control at least part of voice-data communications operations.

35. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, wherein at least certain of said calling number identification data is utilized to preclude access to at least certain operations performed by an audio response unit.

36. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 34, further comprising:

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controlling voice-data communications based upon a specified limited amount of use available to said individual callers.

37. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein said specified limited amount of use includes incrementing to said amount of use.

38. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein said specified limited amount of use is one.

39. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:

isolating a subset of said callers based at least in part upon said individual callers' calling order sequence.

40. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:

recording said audio signals and reproducing recorded audio signals as caller voice data at a remote terminal.

41. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:

providing said audio signals recorded in a digital format to a terminal via a coupling structure.

42. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 41, wherein said audio signals recorded in a digital format are provided to said terminal via a voice generator.

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43. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 41, further comprising the step of:

providing each of said individual callers with a computer generated number.

44. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 41, further comprising the step of:

receiving individual callers' credit card numbers for billing purposes.

45. (Previously Presented) A method for controlling voice-data communications according to claim 31, further comprising the step of:

storing at least said audio signals for subsequent processing.

46-71. (Canceled)